United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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MISSISSIPPI MAN SENTENCED TO SIXTEEN MONTHS FOR KATRINA FRAUD

GULFPORT, Miss. – Robert Scott Manley, of Gulfport, Miss., was sentenced today before U. S. District Judge Louis Guirola, Jr. for theft of government funds, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced. Manley was sentenced to 16 months confinement, 3 years supervised release, 80 hours of community service, and will be ordered to pay restitution to both FEMA and SBA.

On February 21, 2008, Manley entered a guilty plea to one count of stealing government funds to which he was not entitled by making false statements to the FEMA and the SBA for a low interest loan. The government dismissed the other counts.

In September, 2005, former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Matthew Friedrich, includes members from the FBI, Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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